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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Melanie Shakarian, Esq.  
Director of Development  
216-861-5217 (direct dial)  
melanie.shakarian@laslev.org

**Legal Aid Partners with Cuyahoga County to Prevent Foreclosures**

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is pleased to announce its partnership with the Cuyahoga County Foreclosure Prevention Project as one of the program's integral participating agencies. The project was created as a response to the predatory lending and foreclosure epidemic in Northeast Ohio.

According to Mark Wiseman, the program administrator for Cuyahoga County's Foreclosure Prevention Project, the County is "devising a system to attack the root causes of the foreclosure epidemic by coordinating and monitoring the efforts of the County's non-profit agencies. These counselors will provide advice to borrowers at all stages of the home-loan process and contact lenders on their behalf, when necessary."

The Consumer Law Practice Unit at Legal Aid will expand its focus to assist the project under a new contract between Legal Aid and Cuyahoga County. Julie Robie, who joined Legal Aid's Consumer Unit in 2004 as the recipient of a two-year Skadden Fellowship, will serve as the Legal Aid liaison with the County. "Legal Aid looks forward to collaborating with the County on this critical issue," she remarked, "My hope is that this county-wide effort will stem the tide of foreclosures and keep people in their homes."

At Legal Aid, Ms. Robie represents clients in mortgage foreclosure, predatory lending, and other consumer credit cases, and conducts community education on payday lending. Prior to joining Legal Aid, Ms. Robie attended Yale Law School, where she participated extensively in the Consumer Rights Clinic in Yale's Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization, providing legal representation to low-income homeowners in complex litigation against home improvement contractors and predatory mortgage lenders.

Through Legal Aid's new partnership with the County, Ms. Robie and other attorneys in the Consumer Law Practice Unit will represent clients in foreclosure cases and help to train credit counseling agencies so issues can be identified that are appropriate for legal representation. Together, the County and Legal Aid will help homeowners avoid foreclosure whenever possible. Legal Aid will also help track the impact of this project to assist the County with outcomes evaluation.

Ms. Robie grew up in Mayfield Village. She and her husband live in Shaker Heights.

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**Main Office**

1223 West Sixth St · Fl 4  
Cleveland, OH 44113  
Phone: 216.687.1900  
Fax: 216.575.6209

**Ashtabula County**

121 East Walnut Street  
Jefferson, OH 44047  
Phone: 866.873.9665  
Fax: 440.576.3021

**Lake & Geauga**

8 North State St · Ste 300  
Painesville, OH 44077  
Phone: 888.808.2800  
Fax: 440.352.0015

**Lorain County**

538 West Broad St · Ste 300  
Elyria, OH 44035  
Phone: 800.444.7348  
Fax: 440.323.8526

